



# LEWIS & CLARK CITY-COUNTY Health Department

EXHIBIT 4

DATE 2/2/09 1230 Ninth Avenue

HB 173 Helena, MT 59601

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January 30, 2009

Representative Jon Sesso  
Chairman, House Appropriations Committee  
Montana House of Representatives  
PO Box 200400  
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Dear Chairman Sesso and Members of the House Appropriations Committee:

Lewis and Clark City-County Health Department strongly supports HB 173, a bill to provide support for counties to improve and protect the health of their communities. Although Montana's health departments vary in size and structure, we all agree that every citizen in every Montana County deserves public health protection.

When you think of public health, you might think about immunizations, restaurant inspections, flu shots, educational programs or health screenings. You might think about investigating and protecting our citizens from infectious diseases, such as measles, salmonella, or pertussis (whooping cough). Our public health departments in this state address these issues.

So how do we do this? In order to protect and promote the public's health our public health infrastructure must be strong. Infrastructure means a trained workforce and addressing national standards. HB 173 will provide funds to support 8 local public health and tribal health departments in their work to prepare for accreditation.

All Montanans deserve the same standards of excellence in public health practice regardless of county size or economy. I urge you to support this legislation.

Sincerely,

Melanie Reynolds, M.P.H.  
Health Officer  
Lewis and Clark County

*"To Improve and Protect the Health of all Lewis and Clark County Residents."*